

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (canceled).
3. (currently amended) A method of preparing a feedstock liquid used for production of ammonium diuranate particles, which comprises mixing a uranyl nitrate solution and tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol to produce a uranyl nitrate mixture (X), dissolving polyvinyl alcohol in water at a temperature of 75°C or higher to produce an aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution, mixing the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution with tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol to produce a polyvinyl alcohol solution (Y), mixing the uranyl nitrate mixture (X) with the polyvinyl alcohol solution (Y) to form a mixed liquid (X)(Y), and adjusting a viscosity of said the mixed liquid (X)(Y) to form a ~~so that the~~ feedstock liquid which has a viscosity from  $4.0 \times 10^{-2}$  to  $6.5 \times 10^{-2}$  Pa·s at 15°C, wherein a total amount of tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol in said

feedstock is 40 to 50% by volume based on the entire volume of said feedstock liquid.

4. (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein a total amount of the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution in the feedstock liquid is 15 to 20% by volume based on an entire volume of the feedstock liquid.
5. (canceled).
6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the mixing of the uranyl nitrate mixture with the polyvinyl alcohol solution is carried out under stirring, which is followed by degassing and adjusting the volume by adding pure water.
7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the uranium content in the feedstock liquid is from 0.6 to 0.9 mol-U/L.
8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein when the polyvinyl alcohol solution is prepared by mixing the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution with tetrahydrofurfuryl

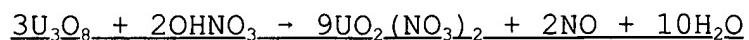
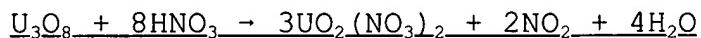
alcohol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol is added before a temperature of the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol decreases to 50°C at the lowest.

9. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 3, of preparing a feedstock liquid for the production of ammonium diuranate particles, the feedstock liquid including uranyl nitrate, an aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution, and tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is weighed when it is dry.

10. (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the dry polyvinyl alcohol is made by heating a polyvinyl alcohol that has absorbed moisture.

11. (original) The method according to the claim 9, wherein the dry polyvinyl alcohol is a polyvinyl alcohol that has been stored with a desiccant.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3, reacting nitric acid with a uranium oxide according to both of the following formulae:



so that the molar ratio (A/B) of nitric acid (A) to uranium (B) is from ~~2.1 to 2.6~~ 2.3 to 2.5.

13. (original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the reaction between nitric acid and the uranium oxide is carried out at a temperature from 70 to 110°C.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12, further comprising a step in which NO<sub>x</sub> gas produced in the reaction is treated chemically.

15. (currently amended) A method of preparing a polyvinyl alcohol solution used in preparing a feedstock liquid for production of ammonium diuranate particles, which comprises mixing polyvinyl alcohol and water to prepare from ~~6 to 9 mass%~~ ~~of~~ an aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution containing from 6 to 9 mass% of polyvinyl alcohol, and mixing the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution with tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol.

16. (original) The method according to claim 15, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is dissolved in water while the polyvinyl alcohol and water are being heated to a temperature of at least 75°C.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein from 1 to 50% by volume of tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol based on an entire volume of tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol included in the feedstock liquid is mixed with the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution at a temperature of at least 50°C.

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the mixing of the uranyl nitrate mixture with the polyvinyl alcohol solution is carried out under stirring, which is followed by degassing and adjusting the volume by adding pure water.

20. (canceled).

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein when the polyvinyl alcohol solution is prepared by mixing the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution with tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol is added before a temperature of the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol decreases to 50°C at the lowest.

22. (canceled).

23. (new) The method according to claim 4, wherein the uranium content in the feedstock liquid is from 0.6 to 0.9 mol-U/L.

24. (new) The method according to claim 6, wherein the uranium content in the feedstock liquid is from 0.6 to 0.9 mol-U/L.

25. (new) The method according to claim 6, wherein when the polyvinyl alcohol solution is prepared by mixing the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution with tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol is added before a temperature of the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol decreases to 50°C at the lowest.

26. (new) The method according to claim 7, wherein when the polyvinyl alcohol solution is prepared by mixing the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution with tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol is added before a temperature of the aqueous polyvinyl alcohol decreases to 50°C at the lowest.